IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF EQUINE SEMEN INTO NEW ZEALAND FROM THE USA

1. IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation of equine semen into New Zealand from the USA.

2. IMPORT HEALTH PERMIT

2.1 Prior to importation, it is mandatory that the importer applies for an import health permit, which authorizes the importation of animal semen into New Zealand.

This permit is obtained from:

The Chief Veterinary Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand

2.2 Import health permits issued in respect of frozen semen will be for a single consignment only.

2.3 Import health permits issued in respect of unfrozen semen may be for multiple consignments over a specified period not exceeding 4 months.

2.4 Attached to, and an integral part of the import health permit, is the current import health standard which describes the conditions under which the animal semen may be imported into New Zealand.

2.5 Multiple entry import health permits for unfrozen semen may be copied, and after presentation of the original copy with the initial consignment a copy of the import health permit may accompany subsequent consignments within the specified period of permit validity.

(N.B. Complete health certification, as specified within this import health standard, must accompany each consignment and verify that at the time of each collection of semen for import the donor stallion met all the specified health requirements.)

3. INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE IMPORTER

The importer shall supply the following information:

3.1 name and address of exporter;

3.2 name and address of the semen collection center;
3.3 breed, age and identification of donor stallions;
34 number of straws to be imported, and whether frozen or unfrozen.

4. REVIEW OF IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

The import health standard may be reviewed and amended if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy, or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other reason, at the discretion of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

5. DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

The import health permit and all the required certification (which must be in English or bilingual (language of specified country)/English) must accompany the consignment to New Zealand. The required documentation is appropriately completed copies of:

5.1 Zoo-sanitary certificate;
5.2 Veterinary Certificate A;
5.3 Veterinary Certificate B;
5.4 Copies of laboratory result sheets for testing required within Veterinary Certificate A.

6. IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 All costs involved with the selection, testing, treatment, transport, quarantine servicing and biosecurity clearance must be borne by the importer or agent as appropriate.

6.2 The importer or agent must make all arrangements for transport and obtain necessary transit authorities from any countries on the transport route.

6.3 Details of transport and arrival times must be supplied to the MAF Veterinary Officer at the port or airport of entry not less than 7 days in advance of importation.

7. EQUIVALENCE

The health conditions stated within this import health standard have been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the semen will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally, it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, the semen does not comply completely with the requirements. In such cases, applications for equivalence will be considered prior to importation and issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture, but only if the following

information is provided by the certifying government's veterinary authorities:

7.1 which clause/s of the health requirements cannot be met and how this has occurred;

7.2 the reason the semen is considered to be of an equivalent health status and/or what proposal is made to return the semen to an equivalent health status as set out in the health conditions;

7.3 the reasons why the veterinary authorities believe this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and their recommendation for its acceptance.

8. ELIGIBILITY

8.1 The donor stallion must have been resident in the USA for at least the three month period prior to collection of semen for this consignment.

8.2 Equine semen for export to New Zealand may be either frozen or unfrozen (fresh, chilled).

8.2.1 In the case of frozen semen, the donor stallion must be resident on the semen collection center from the time of the first collection to the time of the last collection of semen for the consignment, and must meet the isolation and testing requirements of Veterinary Certificate A section 4 prior to the export of the semen to New Zealand.

8.2.2 In the case of unfrozen semen, the donor stallion must have been resident on the approved semen collection center for a minimum period of 30 days prior to collection of the semen for export to New Zealand, until the completion of semen collection, and must meet the isolation and testing requirements of Veterinary Certificate A section 5 at the time of each collection of semen for export to New Zealand.

8.3 While resident on the semen collection center the donor stallion must not have contact with, or be used for natural mating of, horses which are not of an equivalent isolation and tested health status as a donor of equine semen for export to New Zealand.

8.4 A donor stallion of frozen semen may complete the isolation and testing regime detailed within Veterinary Certificate A for a donor stallion of unfrozen semen. In this case, semen collected during the 30 day isolation period will be eligible for export immediately following successful completion of the isolation and testing requirements for a donor stallion of unfrozen semen.

8.5 In the case of uncastrated male equine (stallions) vaccinated against equine viral arteritis, the preferred MAF standard is that the horse has recorded in an official passport that between six to twelve months of age it was subjected to a serum neutralization test or indirect ELISA for EVA with a negative result and immediately vaccinated for EVA, and has received regular (annual) booster vaccinations thereafter.

MAF will consider applications for equivalence with the preferred MAF EVA requirements for stallions vaccinated at an age greater than 12 months if the following additional information is provided at the time of import health permit application:

EITHER 8.5.1 A declaration made by the owner/owner's agent and endorsed by a veterinarian stating that in the period following the date of testing until completion of a course of EVA vaccination the stallion:

8.5.1.1 was not used to naturally mate any mares; and

8.5.1.2 was not resident on any property or had contact with any horse which had been resident on a property on which equine viral arteritis had been diagnosed in the previous 3 months.

OR 8.5.2 A service history for the stallion since vaccination, and any relevant information relating to the EVA status of mares served (i.e. maintenance of sero-negativity);

OR 8.5.3 The results of any semen EVA virus isolation tests performed since vaccination.

8.6 When collecting semen samples from EVA seropositive stallions for EVA virus isolation:

8.6.1 the semen sample must contain the sperm-rich portion of the ejaculate, not pre-ejaculate fluid or dismount samples;

8.6.2 no disinfectants or detergents must be used on the genital region of the horse or on the equipment used;

8.6.3 only water must be used in the preparation of the horse;

8.6.4 a new A-V liner must be used.

8.7 Test matings of mares by EVA seropositive stallions to clarify EVA status must

involve at least 3 natural matings during a single estrous cycle.

9. SEMEN COLLECTION CENTER

Semen must be collected at a semen collection center which meets the conditions of Appendix 1 *MAF standard for semen collection centers for the collection of equine semen for export to New Zealand,* dated 4 November 1996.

10. IDENTIFICATION

10.1 The identification of the semen donor and the date of collection must be shown on the veterinary certificates accompanying the semen.

10.2 All straws must be permanently marked with identification of the donor animal and the date of collection. If a code is used for this information, the decipher must accompany the consignment.

11. HEALTH CERTIFICATION

11.1 The animal health certification requirements are stated in Veterinary Certificate A and B which are to be signed by the veterinary surgeon supervising the semen collection center and a veterinary officer of the veterinary authorities of the country of origin respectively.

11.2 All serological tests must be carried out at an official government laboratory approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the exporting country, and copies of laboratory result sheets should accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

12. TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

12.1 The semen for export to New Zealand must be transported in containers which have been sealed with an official seal of the government veterinary authorities of the exporting country. The number of the seal must be recorded in Veterinary Certificate B.

12.2 The transport containers used should be suitable for storage of the semen transported, whether frozen or unfrozen. In either case, the container must be of a design allowing it to be sealed with an official seal prior to export and precluding any ability to access the contents of the container without breaking the seal.

13. BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

On arrival in New Zealand the documentation accompanying the consignment will be checked by an Inspector under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and, providing it complies with

the conditions of this import health standard, and the seal of the transport container remains intact, a biosecurity clearance will be issued and it will be released to the importer.

Health Certificate No. _____
(Valid only if USDA Veterinary Seal
appears over certificate number)

ZOO-SANITARY CERTIFICATE
Species: EQUINE SEMEN
To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number: .....

Exporting Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ministry: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Service: ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
Region: .....

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DONOR ANIMAL

Name:
.....
Breed:
.....
Identification:
.....

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SEMEN

Date of collection:
.....
Total number of straws (frozen semen) or semen quantity (fresh semen): .....
Identification of straws/container: .....
Additives (including antibiotics, extenders, etc): .....

III. ORIGIN OF THE SEMEN

Name and address of the semen collection center: .....

.....
.....

.....
.....

IV. DESTINATION OF THE SEMEN

Health Certificate No. _____
(Valid only if USDA Veterinary Seal
appears over certificate number)

Name and address of importer: .....

.....
.....

.....
.....

V. SANITARY INFORMATION

N.B. The required zoo-sanitary information is contained in the accompanying Veterinary Certificates A and B.

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I, ..., a USDA accredited veterinary surgeon supervising the ..... semen collection center (the Supervising Veterinarian) certify with respect to the donor stallions and semen identified in the attached Zoosanitary Certificate that:

1. COUNTRY/REGION DISEASE FREEDOM AND RESIDENCY

1.1 During the three months immediately prior to the date of first semen collection for this consignment the donor stallions have been resident:

1.1.1 in the USA, where the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable:

African horse sickness	contagious equine metritis
dourine	equine encephalomyelitis (all types)
glanders	surra
vesicular stomatitis	

1.1.2 in a part of the territory of the USA, where during the period of two years preceding the date of first collection of semen for this export consignment there has been no evidence that leads to the conclusion that the following diseases have occurred:

African horse sickness	contagious equine metritis
dourine	glanders

Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis

1.1.3 in a part of the territory of the USA, where during the period of 12 months preceding the date of first collection of semen for this export consignment there has been no evidence that leads to the conclusion that the following diseases have occurred:

Borna disease Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis
surra vesicular stomatitis

1.2 Vaccination against African horse sickness is not permitted in the USA.

1.3 During the 6 month period immediately prior to the date of semen collection the donor stallions have not visited or been resident in any country where a case of African horse sickness, dourine, glanders or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, had occurred during the previous two years.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ORIGIN

The donor stallions have not during the thirty days immediately prior to entering onto the semen collection center been on any property where any of the following diseases, or any other notifiable disease of equine, has occurred:

equine infectious anemia equine coital exanthema
Q fever equine viral abortion (EHV-1)
equine viral arteritis leptospirosis
equine paratyphoid (*Salmonella abortus-equi*)

3. SEMEN COLLECTION CENTER

3.1 The equine semen for export was collected at a semen collection center which meets the provisions of Appendix 1 *MAF standard for semen collection centers for the collection of equine semen for export to New Zealand* dated 4 November 1996.

3.2 During the 30 days prior to entry of the donor stallion onto the semen collection center there have been no cases of any of the following disease, or any other notifiable disease of equine, on the semen collection center:

equine infectious anemia equine coital exanthema

Q fever equine viral abortion (EHV-1)
equine viral arteritis leptospirosis
equine paratyphoid (*Salmonella abortus-equi*)

4. ISOLATION AND HEALTH TESTING: DONOR OF FROZEN SEMEN

4.1 The donor stallion has been resident on the semen collection center for the period from first semen collection until last semen collection for this consignment, and during this time has had no contact with, and has not been used for natural mating with, any horse of a lesser isolation and tested health status (i.e. all in-contact horses have been subjected to the premises of origin, isolation and testing requirements applicable for a donor stallion).

4.2 Equine viral arteritis:

EITHER: 4.2.1 Not less than 21 days (but not more than 180 days) following the completion of semen collection for this consignment the donor stallion was tested for EVA using either a serum neutralization test or indirect ELISA with a negative result;

Date of test: .....

(NOTE: In the case of EVA sero-positive in-contact mares or geldings, tests performed on two occasions, the second at least 21 days post collection, demonstrating a stable or declining antibody titer are accepted as equivalent to a negative result in stallions.)

OR: 4.2.2 The donor stallion is sero-positive to EVA virus and within one year prior to semen collection has been determined not to be a shedder of EVA virus by:

EITHER 4.2.2.1 virus isolation for EVA virus on two semen samples taken at least 21 days apart with negative results;

OR 4.2.2.2 test matings to two mares which have tested negative to either serum neutralization tests or indirect ELISA for EVA on blood samples taken at the time of test mating and at least 28 days after the mating.

Dates of test: .....

(NOTE: Delete whichever of 4.2.2.1 or 4.2.2.2 is not applicable.)

OR: 4.2.3 The donor stallion has recorded in an official passport that between six to twelve months of age it was subjected to either a serum neutralization test or indirect ELISA for EVA with a negative result and immediately vaccinated for EVA, and has received regular (annual) booster vaccinations thereafter.

(NOTE: An official record of vaccinations must accompany each horse.)

(NOTE: Delete whichever of 4.2.1, 4.2.2 or 4.2.3 is not applicable.)

4.3 Equine infectious anemia:

not less than 21 days (but not more than 180 days) following the completion of semen collection for this consignment the donor stallion has been tested for EIA using either an ELISA or Coggin's test with a negative result.

Date of test: .....

4.4 Vesicular stomatitis:

not less than 21 days (but not more than 180 days) following the completion of semen collection for this consignment the donor stallion has been tested for vesicular stomatitis (Indiana and New Jersey strains) using either a serum neutralization test or the competitive ELISA (C-ELISA) with a negative result.

Date of test: .....

5. ISOLATION AND HEALTH TESTING: DONOR OF UNFROZEN SEMEN

5.1 The donor stallion has been resident on the semen collection center for a minimum 30 day period prior to semen collection for this consignment, and during this time has had no contact with, and has not been used for natural mating with, any horse of a lesser isolation and tested health status (i.e. all in-contact horses have been subjected to the premises of origin, isolation and testing requirements applicable for a donor stallion).

5.2 Equine viral arteritis:

EITHER: 5.2.1 Not less than 21 days following entry of the donor stallion into isolation on the semen collection center and prior to semen collection for this

consignment the donor stallion was tested for EVA using either a serum neutralization test or indirect ELISA with a negative result;

Date of test: .....

(NOTE: In the case of EVA sero-positive in-contact mares or geldings, tests performed on two occasions, the second at least 21 days after entry into isolation, demonstrating a stable or declining antibody titer are accepted as equivalent to a negative result in stallions.)

OR: 5.2.2 The donor stallion is sero-positive to EVA virus and within one year prior to semen collection has been determined not to be a shedder of EVA virus by:

EITHER 5.2.2.1 virus isolation for EVA virus on two semen samples taken at least 21 days apart with negative results;

OR 5.2.2.2 test matings to two mares which have tested negative to either serum neutralization tests or indirect ELISAs for EVA on blood samples taken at the time of test mating and at least 28 days after the mating.

Dates of test: .....

(NOTE : Delete whichever of 5.2.2.1 or 5.2.2.2 is not applicable.)

OR: 5.2.3 The donor stallion has recorded in an official passport that between six to twelve months of age it was subjected to either a serum neutralization test or indirect ELISA for EVA with a negative result and immediately vaccinated for EVA, and has received regular (annual) booster vaccinations thereafter.

(NOTE; An official record of vaccinations must accompany each horse.)

(NOTE: Delete whichever of 5.2.1, 5.2.2 or 5.2.3 is not applicable.)

5.3 Equine infectious anemia:

Not less than 21 days after entering into isolation on the semen collection center and prior

to semen collection for this consignment the donor stallion has been tested for EIA using either an ELISA or Coggin's test with a negative result.

Date of test: .....

5.4 Vesicular stomatitis:

Not less than 21 days after entering into isolation on the semen collection center and prior to semen collection for this consignment the donor stallion has been tested for vesicular stomatitis (Indiana and New Jersey strains) using either a serum neutralization test or the competitive ELISA (C-ELISA) with a negative result.

Date of test: .....

6. SEMEN COLLECTION

6.1 On the dates of collection of the semen, all the animals on the semen collection center were examined by the Supervising Veterinarian and no animals showed any clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease.

6.2 New, disposable artificial vagina (AV) liners and collection vessels were used for each collection.

7. SEMEN PROCESSING

7.1 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the semen were screened for adventitious viruses including tests for cytopathology in appropriate cell cultures, for hemagglutination and hemadsorbing viruses, and for pestiviruses by immunoperoxidase or immunofluorescence techniques with negative results in each case.

7.2 All biological products were handled in a manner which ensure that their sterility was maintained.

7.3 Antibiotics have been added to the semen to achieve an effect at least equivalent to the following dilutions:

not less than 500 IU per ml streptomycin,

500 IU per ml penicillin,
150 μg per ml lincomycin,
300 μg per ml spectinomycin.

7.4 Immediately after the addition of the antibiotics the diluted semen has been kept at a temperature of at least 15°C for a period of not less than 45 minutes.

8. SEMEN STORAGE

8.1 After processing, the semen was stored in previously sterilized containers containing fresh nitrogen (if appropriate i.e. for frozen semen) not used for any prior purpose.

8.2 Prior to shipment to New Zealand, frozen semen has been stored under quarantine conditions at the semen collection center until the results of post-collection testing are known.

8.3 All servicing of the semen container has been completed in the presence of the Supervising Veterinarian and has been conducted in a manner that prevents contamination of the container or its contents.

_____	_____
Accredited Veterinarian (date)	Endorsing Federal Veterinarian (date) (Valid only if USDA Veterinary Seal appears over signature)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Name and address	Name and address

Health Certificate No. _____
(Valid only if USDA Veterinary Seal
appears over certificate number)

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I, ..., a Veterinary Officer of the United States Department of Agriculture certify with respect to the semen for export and donor stallions identified in the attached Zoosanitary Certificate that:

1. ENDORSEMENT

1.1 The semen collection center from which the semen for export originates is approved for the collection of equine semen for export to New Zealand according to Appendix 1: *MAF standard for semen collection centers for the collection of equine semen for export to New Zealand.*

1.2 The Supervising Veterinarian of the semen collection center is a registered veterinary surgeon in the USA and accredited by the USDA to supervise pre-export animal health requirements on behalf of the USDA.

2. SEMEN FOR EXPORT

2.1 The semen for export has been stored at a place approved by the USDA during the period between semen collection and shipment to New Zealand.

2.2 Prior to export, the transport container containing the semen for export to New Zealand has been sealed with an official seal of the United States Government containing the unique identification number or mark: .....

_____
Veterinary Officer, APHIS (date)
United States Department of Agriculture
(Valid only if USDA Veterinary Seal appears over signature)

_____
_____
_____
Name and address

NOTE: Official stamp must be applied to all pages

APPENDIX ONE

MAF STANDARD FOR SEMEN COLLECTION CENTERS FOR THE COLLECTION OF EQUINE SEMEN FOR EXPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

1. LOCATION

1.1 The center must be located in a country, or part of the territory of a country, that has been free from the following disease:

1.1.1 for a minimum 2 year period prior to the entry of the donor stallion:

Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis	glanders
African horse sickness	contagious equine metritis
dourine	

1.2.1 for a minimum 12 month period prior to the entry of the donor stallion:

eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis	surra
vesicular stomatitis	Borna disease

1.2 The center may be located on an established equine enterprise but should be so sited that, for the duration of the period of collection of semen for export to New Zealand, direct contact between horses on the center and other equine is prevented.

1.3 The center must be conveniently located such that either a Government Veterinary Officer or USDA accredited veterinary surgeon (herein called the Supervising Veterinarian) is able to supervise the collection of equine semen for export.

1.4 The center should be situated on a well drained site not at undue risk of flood or other extreme environmental hazard. All drainage should be away from the center: no streams or drains should enter the center. The site must allow all-weather vehicular access.

2. FACILITIES

2.1 The center must be surrounded by two secure stock-proof fences at least 5 meters apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter. Exceptions to these standards may be approved by MAF if they are considered to provide equivalent quarantine security.

2.2 Stables on the center should offer protection against sun, wind, rain and extremes of temperature, and must be so constructed that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected. Stables, yards, fences, and feeding and watering arrangements should be so constructed that the horses are protected from injury, and other welfare needs are met.

2.3 The center shall have facilities for veterinary examination of animals and the collection of samples, and facilities for the segregation and isolation of sick animals.

2.4 Semen must be processed in a room or building or mobile laboratory set aside for that purpose, separate from areas where animals are housed and where semen is collected. This facility must be cleaned and disinfected before use.

3. OPERATION

3.1 The center must be approved by the Supervising Veterinarian prior to the commencement of each period of collection of semen for export to New Zealand. Before approval, the Supervising Veterinarian must be satisfied that all hard surfaces have been adequately cleaned and disinfected and that exercise yards, holding yards and paddocks have been spelled for sufficient time to allow decontamination.

3.2 Disease testing, semen collection and semen processing and storage must be supervised by the Supervising Veterinarian.

3.3 During the collection period the center must only be occupied by the donor stallions and other stock of the same health status. The area between the perimeter fences must be kept free from horses and other stock during the collection period.

3.4 Personnel attending the horses must change outer clothing and footwear, and wash thoroughly, before handling the animals. Personnel processing semen must be trained in, and practice, proper disinfection procedures and hygiene techniques.

3.5 All equipment used in e feeding, handling and treatment of the horses at the center must be new or cleaned and disinfected before use and must be dedicated to use on the animals on the center for the duration of the collection period. All equipment used to collect, process and store the semen and/or which comes into contact with either the donor stallions of the semen must be new and disposable or cleaned and disinfected before and between uses. Semen must be stored in a secure area.

3.6 Any health problems affecting horses or other stock on the center during the collection period must be promptly reported to the Supervising Veterinarian.

3.7 A record must be kept by the operator and/or the export agent detailing identification of all equine on the center and their origins, dates of entry, dates and results of disease tests or investigations, treatments either therapeutic or prophylactic, any departures from good health and condition, inspection visits by the Supervising Veterinarian and any other information relevant to each animal’s health status while it is resident on the center.

3.8 There must be no authorized access to the center and the entry of all visitors must be recorded.